

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 9, 2006. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 remain in this application. Claim 1 is the independent Claim. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action notes the complete copies of the references EP 1 164 599, and Japan 10-259459 and 10-041113 have not been submitted, thus the references were not considered in full.

Accordingly, Applicant is submitting the above references with the present submission. Recordation and consideration of these references are thus respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 5 was provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 over Claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/675,797, and provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the same. Claims 1-6 were provisionally rejected over Claims 1-6 of the same for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting

In response, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate additional features not found in the 10/675,797 reference. Accordingly, the claims of the present invention, as presently amended, are patentable over that reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections are thus respectfully requested

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. Yamamoto (2002/0007875 A1); Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under § 102(b) or

§ 103(a) over the same; and Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under § 103(a) over the same.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Yamamoto Reference

Yamamoto is directed to R-Fe-B base permanent magnet material. (See, *Yamamoto; Para. 0002*). According to Yamamoto, the R-Fe-B base permanent magnet material include a rare earth-iron-boron magnetic alloy which contains a $\text{Fe}_{14}\text{R}_2\text{B}_1$ primary phase on a volumetric proportion of 87.5 to 97.5%, and a rare earth oxide or a rare earth and transition metal oxide in a volumetric proportion of 0.1 to 3%. (See, *Yamamoto; Para. 0010*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet having R, T, and B.

As defined by amended independent Claim 1, a method for manufacturing an R-T-B system rare earth permanent magnet includes a sintered body having a main phase consisting of an $\text{R}_2\text{T}_{14}\text{B}$ phase. R represents one or more rare earth elements, providing that the rare earth elements include Y. T represents one or more transition metal elements essentially containing Fe, or Fe and Co. A grain boundary phase contains a higher amount of R than the main phase. A product that is rich in Zr exists in the $\text{R}_2\text{T}_{14}\text{B}$ phase. The manufacturing method includes the steps of preparing an R-T-B alloy containing as a main component the $\text{R}_2\text{T}_{14}\text{B}$ phase and also containing Zr, and an R-T alloy containing R and T as main components. The amount of R is higher than that of said R-T-B alloy. A mixture of the R-T-B alloy powder and the R-T alloy powder is obtained. A compacted body

with a certain form from the mixture is prepared. The compacted body is sintered. In the sintering step, the product is generated in the $R_2T_{14}B$ phase. The R-T-B alloy is prepared by the strip casting method under the condition that the peripheral velocity of a chill roll is 1.0 to 1.8 m/s.

The applied reference does not disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention as defined by the claims. In particular, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest, "said R-T-B alloy is prepared by the strip casting method under the condition that the peripheral velocity of a chill roll is 1.0 to 1.8 m/s," as required by amended independent Claim 1.

The original Claim 4 was rejected over Yamamoto. The Office Action took notice that Yamamoto teaches an alloy composition having a composition that overlaps the composition recited in Claim 4, but does not teach the exact same proportions as those recited in the that claim. Regardless, the Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to selected the portion cited in Claim 4 to achieve the commonly disclosed alloy composition. (*See, Office Action; Page 6*).

Applicant notes that original Claim 4 recites, "R-T-B alloy is prepared by the strip casting method under the condition that the peripheral velocity of a chill roll is 1.0 to 1.8 m/s," is directed to a method, rather than proportions of the alloy. Accordingly, Applicant believes the reasons cited in rejection of the original Claim 4 is moot.

Moreover, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest the above features of the original Claim 4. The amended independent Claim 1 incorporates the original Claim 4 is thus allowable over the applied reference. Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition of allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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The remaining claims depend either directly from amended independent Claim 1, and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. Regarding claim 3 of the present application, the Examiner pointed out in page 5 of the Office Action that although Yamamoto is silent with respect to the "suitable sintering temperature" and the squareness ratio, Yamamoto's alloys would be expected to possess all the same properties as recited in the instant claims. However, please note that the present claim 3 is related to a method.

Conclusion

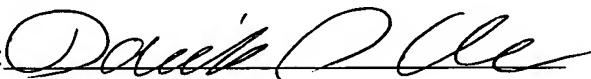
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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